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WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Miss. Actors chosen

Reaching to Romania

Garaywa ceremony set

Food ministry nourishing

B 24 1998

THE BAPTIST

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Former Niger witch doctor accepts Jesus

KWAARA TAJI, Niger (BP) — The men dance in the fire-light. Their writhing bodies obey an intense rhythm beat out by a weathered old woman who stands to one side, shaking a shovel-shaped instrument ringed with bells.

The pace intensifies. When the woman — a witch doctor — chants magic words, demon spirits possess the men, who stop to channel the instructions they receive.

The old witch doctor smiles. Tonight the seekers got the advice they wanted. Perhaps she will actually get paid.

"Before I came to know Christ, I sold charms and potions and curses," Jima recalled, sitting on a mat in front of her round thatched hut in Kwaara Taji, a village on the outskirts of Niamey, capital city of the West African country of Niger.

"I prayed to Allah that he would allow the devil to bring his power into the things I was making and selling. It is Satan who gives power to the fetish."

Her witch doctor's life was hard, Jima said.

Sally Womble, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary who ministers through the Bafuney Taji Windo (House of New Life) community center in Kwaara Taji, was aware of Jima but had not approached her.

"I had greeted her when I passed her house, but I didn't

know her," Womble recalled.

"Then one day in my quiet time the Lord said to go witness to her."

"She told us that since we had come to the village and started telling the Bible stories, she knew what she was doing was wrong. That showed me the Holy Spirit was already working on her."

Jima remembered: "She told me the story of Jesus Christ and promised to come back next week and answer questions. This touched me very much. I wasn't able to sleep."

"When they came back, I told them I had no

questions. I knew in my heart what she was saying was true. I decided to ask Jesus into my heart as Savior."

"Since I came to know Jesus, I know forgiveness and eternal life. That's not possible in the fetish," Jima said. "My life before was very sad. Now it is very happy. Now I am content



SET FREE — "I never had peace in my heart," says Jima, a former witch doctor. Jima made her living selling charms, potions, and curses until Sally Womble, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary in Niger, shared the good news of God's love with her. Jima opened her heart to Christ and asked Sally to burn the fetish instruments she used in her rituals. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

in my heart with life and I will get to go to heaven to be with Jesus when I die."

Turning her back on the fetish, however, complicated Jima's life in several ways.

For one thing, evil spirits would return to her house to torment her, she said. She learned the power of prayer as her Christian friends gathered to pray for her protection.

As a widow, Jima's decision to leave witchcraft deprived her of her means of support, meager though it was.

"That was a growth experi-

ence for the church, to take on the responsibility of caring for her needs as a widow," Womble recalled.

The church gave her a little kerosene, which she sold as lantern fuel.

With the profits she bought more kerosene, and her business now provides enough income to buy vegetables.

Jima values the prayers of brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Pray that I would grow as a Christian. I served Satan for so long, and he was not happy when I left."

A small piece of Israel

WASHINGTON (ABP) — While Jews and Palestinians continue to fight over who should inhabit what part of the Middle East, an entrepreneur has staked a claim to allow people of lesser means to own small pieces of the Holy Land.

For just \$35, including postage and handling, you can receive a deed for one square inch of property in Galilee, overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

If you visit the Holy Land, just call up Holy Land Parcels Ltd. and they'll arrange for you to visit your property, although you'll have to stand on several dozen other parcels in addition to yours to get a look up-close and personal.

"You are invited to join an exclusive family of Holy Land landowners by acquiring an everlasting possession which cannot be purchased anywhere except in Israel," a promotional brochure explains.

"Now you can own a symbolic plot of land in the Holy Land as your personal biblical heritage."

Owning this square-inch of land "will reinforce your ties with the land of the Bible," the brochure promises.

There's more good news, though: Holy Land Parcels will pay the taxes on your property as well.

Benjamin Shavit, director of Holy Land Parcels, said his company's offer is intended as a promotional idea for fundraising. No contact information was available.

Looking back

10 years ago

Samford University announces it will open the Southern Baptist Convention's first university-based divinity school. The new school, which will offer the Master of Divinity Degree, has been endowed by an anonymous donor, according to Samford President Thomas E. Corts.

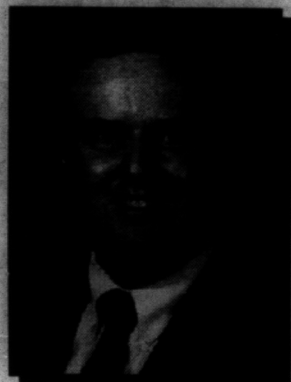
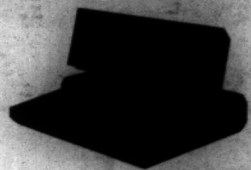
20 years ago

Wallerville Church, New Albany, burns a note after being in a new church plant only one year. Church members give \$55,000 to make their church debt free, and plans are being formulated for additional education space. H. Bryan Able is pastor.

50 years ago

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, visits the Baptist Building in Jackson, where he signs up to be a speaker for the State Evangelistic meeting in 1949, according to D. A. McCall, director of Evangelism for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Rattling a few nerves

The statistics are nothing short of stag-
gering. Of the 811 people killed in
Mississippi automobile accidents in
1996, more than 40% of the deaths were
attributed to alcohol, according to
Washington, D.C.-based Advocates for
Highway and Auto Safety.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action
Commission (CAC) recently reported that
almost 27,000 Driving Under the Influence
(DUI) arrests are made in a typical year in
Mississippi, resulting in convictions and
fines exceeding \$7.3 million.

The state's law enforcement offi-
cials readily attest that drunk driv-
ing is a social cancer affecting
every race, gender, and income
group, from a Mississippi Supreme
Court justice alleged to have been
driving drunk to a state legislator
convicted of DUI to your next-door
neighbor who gets in the family car
and drives drunk every day.

The problem has become so per-
vasive that many Mississippi metro-
politan areas have been forced to
dedicate entire police units to patrol
for drunk drivers. Those units are
some of the busiest on the force; they
usually don't have to look very far.

There are precious few
Mississippians who have not been
adversely affected in some way as a
result of drunk driving — death of a family
provider, life-changing injury, unrecoverable
property loss, or all of the above and more.

A little over two weeks ago, the five-
year-old son of a New Orleans Seminary
doctoral student was killed and his wife
critically injured by an alleged drunk dri-
ver who has been charged with vehicular
homicide, Driving While Intoxicated
(DWI), driving with no insurance, speed-
ing, and reckless driving.

That's an every-weekend occurrence
across Mississippi, so much so that it's no
longer newsworthy.

Something must be done. Something can

be done. For starters, there
is a bill before the
Mississippi Legislature cur-
rently in session in Jackson
that will lower the Blood
Alcohol Content (BAC)
level for a DUI charge from
.1 to .08 BAC.

To reach that BAC level,
a 150-pound person need
only consume five beers or
four ounces of powerful 80-
proof liquor in one hour.
Drunk drivers routinely
have two to three times that
level of alcohol in their
bloodstream.

The National Highway
Traffic Safety Administration
estimates that if all states
adopted .08 BAC legislation,
hundreds of alcohol-related
traffic fatalities could be pre-
vented each year.

"With each .02 increase
in a driver's BAC (from .08
to .1 BAC, for example), the
risk of being involved in a
fatal crash doubles," said
Jon Gerson, director of state
affairs for Advocates for
Highway and Auto Safety.

It seems as if .08 BAC is a reasonable
standard, given that fifteen state legisla-
tures have already seen fit to declare .08
BAC as the legal level for DUI. Right?

Wrong, if you live in Mississippi.

"The Mississippi Legislature has consis-
tently refused to lower the state's BAC
legal limit from .1 to .08, because of pres-
sure from the alcohol industry," said Paul
Jones, CAC executive director.

"As in most states, alcohol remains the
single largest factor in traffic fatalities in
Mississippi," Gerson pointed out.

It's hard to believe any lawmaker could
oppose this standard, yet .08 BAC legisla-
tion has failed in the legislature for several



years running. Jones believes many legisla-
tors are hoping the bill will quietly fade
away again this year so they won't have to
publicly record a vote on the issue.

Let's not allow that to happen.
Mississippi Baptists have spoken loudly
against the consumption of alcohol and its
associated tragedies such as drunk driving.

On this issue, it's time we spoke loudly
enough to rattle the New Capitol's win-
dows — and the nerves of a few of this
state's pro-alcohol legislators.

For information on how to contact your
state legislator, see article on page three of
this issue.

GUEST OPINION:



A cry for America's moral rebirth

By **Eddie L. Ruddick**, pastor
Meehan Church, Meridian

They were preacher-farmers,
whom we call bivocationalists
today. The New Testament
describes them as "tent-mak-
ers." Paul was one.

My earliest memories of our
pastors at old Ebenezer in
Alabama were Brothers
Grouby and Williams, both
preacher-school teachers.

The lost in America are
mostly poor people. A hundred
of them in a church cannot
afford a pastor's full salary and,
sociologically, they feel threat-
ened in a bigger church.

They need a man of God
who is self-supporting, who
lives in their neighborhood,
and who role-models for the
fatherless sons in their area.

We need coming out of our
schools men who are equipped
to teach, to sell, to work in
allied health fields, and to wit-

ness, win, and disciple the peo-
ple in grass-roots churches.

Two verses are applicable —
Luke 7:22, "Go and tell John...
The blind see, the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, the
poor are evangelized..."; and
John 12:8, "For the poor you
have always with you..."

The field for bivocational
preachers will always be there.

These preachers are the kind
of men who could put the fam-
ily back together and furnish a
stream of God-called preachers
to keep those ministering col-
leges alive and necessary until
Jesus comes.

Morality in government and
society must be born in an
experience with God.

It is immoral to live in a sin-
ful society and not try to
change it. It is also immoral to

live in a changed society, and
not extend that change to the
next generation.

Since most of the lost are
poor we need to take up our
cross, be prepared to sacrifice,
and work amid adversity, but
be assured that we are exactly
where Jesus would be if he
were in the world today.

Now, I have said what I
would have said had I gone to
Washington.

Everybody can do some-
thing, but no one is in a posi-
tion to do more to bring
America back to God than the
Baptist colleges in America.

I know they feel pressures
every day and I do not mean to
overtax their spirit, but rather I
encourage them to persist in
turning out men and women of
God who love Jesus, God's
Word, and lost souls.

No one can do more than
that, but please do invite them
to stay one more year, get a
double major, and then get in
the fields that are white for
harvest.

Ruddick is a former faculty
member of Clarke College, the now-
closed junior college in Newton
that was affiliated with the
Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Bills remain alive after first legislative deadline

By Paul G. Jones II, Ex. Dir.
Christian Action Commission

February 13, was a major deadline for the 1998 legislative session. All general bills and constitutional amendments had to pass the chamber in which they were originally introduced by midnight or "die on calendar."

The following bills remain alive in the 1998 Legislature:

ADOPTION

HB 173 and SB 2126 provide income tax credit for legal child adoption and/or child adoption expenses.

ALCOHOL

HB 557 and SB 2486 allow the Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABC) to continue to enforce beer and light wine laws in local areas when local law enforcement will not do so. These are good bills and need support.

HB 986 revises the definition of a "qualified resort area" to include Lake Slip Away Dragstrip and Resort in Leake County. There is no compelling

state need for this and is an example of special interest legislation. All this would do is create one additional point of alcohol sale.

HB 1145 and SB 2649 raise the legal alcohol content of beer and light wine in the state from four percent to five percent alcohol by weight — a 25% increase. These bills need to be opposed.

SB 2826 creates brewpubs and is primarily special interest legislation for casinos. This bill needs to be opposed by all who believe that an intoxicated person does not need to be gambling.

CHILDREN

HB 834 creates a statewide Teen Pregnancy Task Force. This could bring together persons from across the state to work to lower the teenage pregnancy rate and could help identify contributing factors.

CHURCHES

HB 82 provides sales tax exemption to churches for the purchase of tangible personal property or services. This bill is in the House Ways and

Means Committee and must be passed by the full House by midnight February 25.

HB 1319 and HB 1695 also provide sales tax exemption to churches.

HB 1695 phases in the exemption over seven years. These bills also face a midnight February 25 deadline.

DRUGS

HB 603 adds "date rape drugs" gamma-hydroxybutyrate and rohypnol to the list of substances that it is criminal to use. This bill needs to pass for the protection of women in our society.

DRUNK DRIVING

HB 990 will lower the blood alcohol content (BAC) required for legal intoxication from .10 to .08 and declare "zero tolerance" for persons under 21. This is mandated by federal highway guidelines, and the state will lose five percent of federal matching highway monies if state law does not conform.

The bill was amended under pressure from the alcohol

industry to delete the lowering of the percentage for adult intoxication. This bill needs to be changed back to its original form and then passed to protect the citizens of the state. The changes made by the committee are unconscionable.

Unless otherwise noted, the next deadline for most bills is March 3, which is the deadline for action on bills and constitutional amendments originating in the other chamber.

Persons wishing to contact their legislators may do so by calling (601) 359-3770, or writing to P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205-0180.

For more information, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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Mississippians bring home Acteen honors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP and local reports) — A pair of Mississippians are among the Acteens from 16 states tapped by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to serve on the 1998 National Acteens Panel and as 1998 Top Teens.

The 28 teenagers were selected from nearly 100 Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven through 12.

Selected to serve on the eight-member 1998 National Acteens Panel are **Chrissy Fortenberry**, First Church, Brandon; Autumn Alcott, Ky.; Adrienne Henderson, N.C.; Kendra Dixon, N.M.; Shasta Mott, Fla.; Rebekah Duke, Va.; Sarah Roberts, Ill.; and Tara Taylor, Texas.

Twenty Acteens were named 1998 National Acteens Top Teens. They are: **Whitney Joy Richardson**, Highland Church, Vicksburg; Brandy Ussery, Ark.; Melissa Gauthier, Calif.; Jennifer Eskew and Jennifer Stepp, Colo.; Amanda Woodall, Ga.; Charity Gardner, Kelley Travis, and Andrea Honeycutt, Ky.; Kristina Kerr, Mo.; Amber Ayers, Nev.; Amanda Bishop and Elizabeth Davis, S.C.; Alanna Morris, Tenn.; Melissa Banks, Laura Borrego, Sky Chaddick, Amy Evans, and Mikel Hatfield, Texas; and Ashley Head, Va.

Selection of panelists and top teens is based on accomplishments in StudiAct, the individual achievement plan for Acteens; involvement in Acteens and other church activities; and achievements in school, scholas-

tically and socially.

In addition to their applications and written testimonies, candidates had to be recommended by their pastor and Acteens leader.

"I am thrilled with our 1998 National Acteens Panelists and Top Teens," said Sarah Groves, youth consultant for WMU. "They represent, not only a strong commitment to Acteens and missions, but they are also top Christian leaders in their churches, communities, and schools."

"When we look at their lives, we see God at work in and through them and we know they offer bright hope for the future. Their sensitivity to the needs of others and the world serve as an example to us all of what it means to be a Christ-follower," she said.

"These young ladies represent all of the outstanding girls who applied to be national panelists," said Karen Anderson, design editor of Accent, the magazine for Acteens.

"I believe they are among the finest teenage girls in the nation, representing Christ in their hearts and actions, and putting his work first despite the many activities that vie for the attention of the American teenager."

Mike May, minister of education and administration at First Church, Brandon, said Fortenberry is an outstanding example of Christian young womanhood.

"She's a leader in every area of her life. Chrissy is at church every time the doors are open, and she brings her friends who

need to know Jesus," he said.

"What really stands out about Chrissy is that her strong leadership qualities don't stem from a desire for recognition. She has a lot of humility about what she does," May pointed out.

Brian Ivey, pastor of Highland Church in Vicksburg, said Richardson has always displayed a serious commitment to sharing the good news of Jesus.

"She is very involved in church activities, and is very missions-minded."

"She has been on several mission trips through Acteens Activators. As a matter of fact,

her whole family defines what it means to be missions-minded," Ivey said.

The panelists will be featured in the April 1998 issue of Accent, with the top teens appearing in the May/June issue of the magazine.

Panelists will write for Accent and serve as pages at the June 7-8 WMU annual meeting and June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention, both in Salt Lake City.

They also will have a prominent role in the National Acteens Convention, July 1-4 in Louisville, Ky.

THE FORTENBERRY FILE

Parents

Jerry & Anita Fortenberry

Member

First Church, Brandon
Youth Choir
Soloist
Youth Leadership Team
Bible Drill (9 years)
Vacation Bible School worker
Girls in Action - 6 badges
Acteens
Acteen counselor-in-training
Studiact series
Backyard Bible Clubs
Gateway Rescue Mission
Baptist Children's Village

Senior

Brandon High School
Beta Club
First Priority Bible Club
Students Against Drunk Driving
Future Business Leaders
Choir/Ensembles
Soccer team manager



THE RICHARDSON FILE

Parents

Ronnie & Jackie Richardson

Member

Highland Church, Vicksburg
Acteens - Citation
Acteens Activator (2 years)
WMU Top Teen (2 years)
Sunday School
Discipleship Training
Bible Drill
Soloist
Sign language ministry



Senior

Vicksburg High School
Key Club (2 years)
Honor Society
Junior Leadership
School Play
Band (3 years)
Varsity Soccer

Doctrine study to be previewed

Preview of the 1998 Doctrine Study "Thine Is the Kingdom: The Reign of God in Today's World" will be presented at William Carey College, March 9; Mississippi College, March 10; and Blue Mountain College, March 12. All three studies are 9 a.m. till noon with lunch at noon. Registration and fellowship will begin at 8:30 a.m. The study will be led by Gene Mims, author of the study book, and vice president for Church Growth Group, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn. Registration indicating location and check of \$5 made payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board should be sent to Don Hicks, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. For more information, call Hicks at (601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651.

Mississippi Baptists answer call to Romania

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Wayne and Tommie Ball of Brandon were finishing the 12-week study "Experiencing God" when a former pastor now living in Kentucky called, asking if they would go with him on a mission trip to Romania.

The summer of 1998 will mark the fifth trip the Balls have made to the former Eastern-Bloc country, and Wayne is serving as chairman of the board for a missions organization called Romanian American Missions (RAM).

Founded 18 months ago by Robert Jackson, a Kentucky pastor and now president of the fledgling organization, RAM is aggressively seeking to help evangelize Romania, a country similar in size to the state of Oregon with a population of 23 million people.

According to Jackson, RAM is now underwriting the salaries of the entire professional staff of the Romania Baptist Union. The Union had a \$68,000 annual budget, but was only receiving \$20,000-\$23,000 from the churches.

"They were borrowing money to stay afloat," Jackson said Jan. 30 at the second annual RAM banquet at First Church, Brandon.

RAM is feeding and clothing 80 students and their families at the Baptist School in Bucharest; has built five churches and helped with three others; started the Good Samaritan Center for homeless children in Bucharest; maintains a business office in Frankfort, Ky. and in Romania; and sent 87 persons on a mission trip this past summer.

"I am a Christian today because of a faithful Christian from the United States who listened to God's call and in a large

evangelistic meeting in Bucharest preached the Gospel and answered my questions," said Cristi Chivou.

Chivou, a student at Southern Seminary in Louisville, is the coordinating secretary for the RAM office in Frankfort.

"In 1990, I was not a Christian. I did not know who God was. I was going through the Orthodox churches asking, 'Who are the people painted on the walls?' I didn't know what to believe, but I was looking for answers," Chivou said.

There have been a lot of changes in Romania since the collapse of communism in 1989, Chivou pointed out.

"There was a time when you could read on the faces of Romanians only sadness, and among the people, Christians suffered the most.

"The Communists saw Christians as their biggest enemy. They were afraid of believers because they knew believers could not be controlled.

"They never realized they were fighting against God," Chivou said.

"In December 1989, God

said, 'Enough is enough.' A miracle happened in Romania that day — freedom came.

"The time of sadness is gone, but the spiritual void left by the communists is so great.

"The time of sadness is past, but it is very hard to look ahead. The church (in Romania) is struggling to find its way," he added.

RAM is planning two mission trips to Romania in June and July of this year. For more information, contact Wayne Ball at 1401 Cassandra Place, Brandon, MS 39042. Telephone (601) 825-3365 or (601) 825-7011.



ANSWERING THE CALL — Attending the second annual RAM banquet from left) Jan. 30 at First Church, Brandon, were (from left) Simona Chivou, wife of Cristi Chivou, Coordinating secretary for RAM in Bucharest; Chivou; Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon; Robert Jackson, president of RAM, Frankfort, Ky.; Wayne Ball, chairman of the Board of RAM, Brandon; Gabriela Poenar, student at Mississippi College and native of Romania. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Southern Baptists among top religious broadcasters

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Southern Baptists know Adrian Rogers and Charles Stanley as former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), but members of the

National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) primarily know both men as two of the nation's most successful broadcast preachers.

Outside the SBC, media personalities like Rogers and Stanley bring more recognition to Baptists than the denomination brings to them. Both have been keynote speakers at recent NRB annual conventions.

That's significant exposure for Southern Baptists, but it's only the tip of the growing influence the SBC appears to be having inside NRB, the nation's professional organization for Christian radio and television.

Longtime participants and observers of the NRB agree that the Southern Baptist profile is on the rise within the organization, which in the past has been dominated by non-denominational or loosely denominational figures.

The program at this year's NRB convention, held Jan. 31-Feb. 3 in Washington, featured no less than nine Southern Baptists in prominent roles, starting with Stanley as keynote speaker for the opening session and ending with an anniversary banquet sponsored in part by the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Other Southern Baptists on the program included Bob Reccord, president of the SBC's

North American Mission Board (NAMB); Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas; Mike Huckabee, a former Baptist pastor who now is governor of Arkansas; Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church in Hixon, Tenn.; Texas humorist Dennis Swanberg; Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas; and Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Presiding over much of the meeting was another Southern Baptist, David Clark, a member of Prestonwood Church in Dallas and director of NAMB's media and technology unit in Fort Worth, Texas.

Clark is thought to be the first Southern Baptist to serve as NRB chairman. This is his second time in the office.

He's joined on the NRB board of directors by at least nine other Southern Baptists, including Stanley and Paul Pressler, the retired Texas appeals court judge who masterminded conservatives' capture of the SBC.

Clark, who left a post as head of the KMA Companies, a media consulting and fundraising firm, to go to work for NAMB in June, agrees Southern Baptists are gaining an increasing profile within NRB.

On top of that, Southern

Baptists have "the best preachers" in America, and therefore have much to offer both NRB and the nation's viewers of religious programming, Clark said.

From the perspective of other NRB members, Clark said, "there's an understanding that there's an openness in the SBC that hasn't been there before."

Part of that openness is explained by the growing awareness among Southern Baptist pastors and denominational officials that broadcast media is an essential part of taking the gospel to the modern culture, he added.

Broadcast media is one excellent way to make such a contact, he said. And while new creative religious programming is one key, the impact of biblical preaching on radio and television never will fade, Clark said.

While the SBC as a denomination has been in the broadcasting business for decades, last year's denominational restructuring has brought media to an even higher profile.

Media technology is a major component of the new NAMB, which assumed the old Radio and Television Commission and is merging its work directly with home missions efforts.

(See article at left for newest SBC broadcast entry.)

ERLC set to begin radio show with faith, family on agenda

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) will be closer to Southern Baptists' hometowns within a few days — within arm's reach on their radio dial.

The SBC's agency for moral and public policy concerns launches a national radio program Feb. 16 that will enable millions of Southern Baptists and others to tune in and participate in biblically based discussions on the critical issues confronting the nation.

The program, "For Faith & Family," will debut on more than 170 radio stations live and on tape-delay across the United States and at AudioNet on the Internet.

In the near future, listeners will be able to visit the For Faith & Family Internet site at www.fff.com to hear the program live on AudioNet or to listen to archived programs. For a complete listing of radio stations in your area carrying the program, contact the ERLC at (615) 244-2495.



Garaywa groundbreaking set for March 5

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new adult lodge at Camp Garaywa in Clinton will be held at 11 a.m. on March 5. The lodge, named Patterson

Place in honor of longtime Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director Marjean Patterson, is designed to meet the needs of the growing number of adult seminars and conferences being held at the state Girls in Action campground.

Among the program personalities scheduled to speak at the groundbreaking are:

◆ Rosemary Aultman, mayor of Clinton.

◆ Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

◆ Howell W. Todd, president

of Mississippi College in Clinton. ◆ Marjean Patterson, Mississippi WMU executive director.

◆ David Michel, MBCB stewardship director.

◆ Dell Scoper of Laurel, chair of the WMU Building Development Committee.

◆ Joan Tyler of Collins, chair of the lodge finance campaign.

A complimentary light lunch will be served following the groundbreaking. Lunch reservations are required. For more information and to make reservations, contact Mississippi WMU at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Correction

On page five of the Feb. 12 issue, the start time for the Camp Garaywa adult lodge groundbreaking on March 5 was in error due to incorrect information supplied to the newspaper. The correct start time is 11 a.m., not 10 a.m. as originally published.

Churches scammed

Churches and individuals should be alert to a growing telephone scam in which persons identifying themselves as telephone company employees request that a call recipient dial a test code, "9-0-# (nine, zero, pound sign)." Doing so allows the scam artist to make third-party telephone calls anywhere in the world on the church's or individual's bill. For more information on this scam, see next week's issue of The Baptist Record.

Miss. CP on target for '98

Immediately after a record-breaking year for Cooperative Program (CP) giving in 1997, Mississippi Baptists continued their interest in missions and education by sending \$2,291,700 through the state CP, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

Mississippi CP giving in 1997 totaled \$26,086,167, with \$1.9 million going directly into a challenge portion supporting state and local missions and Christian higher education.

Mississippi CP giving in 1997 also maintained a string of record-setting CP years in the state dating back nearly a decade.

January 1998 giving, though less than that given in January of 1997 by \$630,950, is \$162,816, or 7.65% ahead of the pro rata budget of \$2,128,884 per month.

The pro rata budget takes the total CP budget of \$25,546,608 and figures monthly requirements.

The Mississippi Cooperative Program helps fund such projects as the state marriage enrichment retreat in Jackson, Feb. 20-21; the youth Bible study forum in Gulfport, Feb. 28; and Baptist doctrine study previews on Baptist college campuses in early March.

SBC CP sees big jump

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for January increased more than 20% compared to the previous year's January, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the month of January 1998, a total of \$16,970,404 in CP gifts was received, compared to the same month in 1997 of \$14,075,108, an increase of \$2,895,296 or 20.57%.

For the first four months of the SBC fiscal year, October through January, CP receipts total \$52,534,658 compared to the same time period last year of \$51,529,813, an increase of \$1,004,844 or 1.95%.

Designated gifts continued to increase as well. For January, a total of \$21,412,350 was received compared to January 1997 of \$19,798,348, an increase of 8.15% or \$1,614,001. For the four month period, the total is \$29,120,010 compared to \$26,697,192, an increase of \$2,422,818 or 9.08% in designated gifts.

For the SBC's Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the January CP total was a whopping \$4,621,648 more than the monthly required total of \$12,348,756, or 37.43%. For the year-to-date in the fiscal year, the total is \$52,534,658, an increase of \$3,139,632 over the budget requirement or 6.36%.

Draper cites highlights in report to BSSB trustees

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The number of opportunities God places before the Sunday School Board "sometimes makes me feel like a skier fleeing down a mountain at breakneck speed, just ahead of an avalanche," President James T. Draper Jr. told the agency's trustees during their semiannual meeting Feb. 9-11.

In areas related to the church growth group, trustees heard reports on a new initiative, FAITH evangelism strategy through the Sunday School; the success of the 1997 Vacation Bible School, with 6.2 million pieces of materials distributed; work in progress to develop Bible study curriculum for the next millennium; explorations leading toward spiritual transformation as an element in all the resources the board provides; a new vocational guidance resource, "God's Call," and the goal to collect the names of 10,000 people who have felt God's call in their lives; and cooperative efforts with the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board in the areas of evangelism, church planting, and church development.

In a report from the retail group, trustees learned of two recently acquired Christian stores in Toledo, Ohio, bringing to 74 the total number of retail locations.

Construction is in progress on five facilities to expand, relocate or establish new stores.

This year, Baptist Book Stores launched a Ministers Discount Plan which now has 6,000 participants and has been extended to furloughing missionaries.

In other matters, trustees approved:

◆ a recommendation that, for budgeting purposes, the average price increase of 2.5% be used for church literature and magazines for 1998-99, effective with the spring (March-April-May) 1999 issues.

Rather than implementing across-the-board increases, each product is evaluated annually for price and manufacturing cost.

Information by title will be provided at the September 1998 trustees meeting.

◆ a recommendation to increase conference center rates by 4% for Oct. 1, 2000 through Sept. 30, 2001.

This projection of rates will

enable meeting planners to schedule conferences at least two years in advance.

Elected as trustee officers were: chairman, Ken Speakman, director of the international division of The

Gideons International, Nashville, and secretary, Roy Mason, senior pastor of Derita Church, Charlotte, N.C. Kent Workman, pastor of New Work Fellowship, Crofton, Ky., was re-elected vice chairman.

Maritime conference set for March 8-10



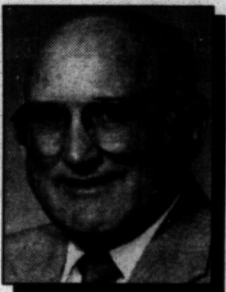
The Center for International Seamen and Truckers in Gulfport (above) and the Center for Seamen/Truckers/Travelers in Pascagoula are hosting "His Mission in Action," a Gulf Coast Maritime Ministers Conference on March 8-10. Registration will begin at 3 p.m. on March 8 at the Holiday Inn Beach Front in Gulfport, with an evening program at 6 p.m. Continental breakfast will be served each morning at 8 a.m., followed by the program at 9 a.m. Early registration is strongly encouraged. For more information, contact Charles Corey Jr., P.O. Box 1964, Gulfport, MS 39502. Telephone: (228) 868-2525.



Participants at the "Learning From Leadership" forum held Jan. 28 at William Carey College were (from left) students Thomas McSwan and Zane Hartfield, both of Hattiesburg; Carey alumnus Louis Guirola Jr., United States Magistrate Judge; and Leanne Burris, assistant forensics coach. Guirola, who has had a distinguished career as a lawyer, judge, teacher, and writer, spoke on professionalism in the law and ethics.

Joe Prickett, missionary to St. Lucia, dies

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Joe Lavern Prickett, a Southern Baptist missionary assigned to the island of St. Lucia in the West Indies, died Feb. 3 in Oklahoma City after a long illness. He was 67.



Prickett

In St. Lucia, Prickett and his wife, Helen, helped start a church from a base of Chinese factory workers. Many of the 25 baptized believers in that church have since gone back to China. Their work was featured in Baptist Press stories in July 1996 and December 1997.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two brothers and three sisters.

Gayle Sharp McCarty, director of the Marie Hull Gallery and teacher of ceramics and design at Hinds Community

College, has always liked creating things using the discards of nature — animal bones, feathers, vines — as well as the historical artifacts and motifs. An exhibit featuring the relief sculpture in cast paper and clay will open with a reception Feb. 26, 5-6:30 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery at William Carey College. A gallery talk/slide presentation about the cast paper process and her current body of work will begin at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit hangs through March 27 and can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., or by calling (601) 582-6192 for appointment.

The Klasinc and Loncar Guitar Duo, featuring Miroslav



Brent Colley, a student at Blue Mountain College, is the first recipient of the W. C. Morgan Memorial Scholarship. The W. C. Morgan Memorial Scholarship was begun by the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). The endowment with the Baptist Foundation will allow this to be presented annually to a student majoring in Church Music at one of the three Baptist colleges. The student must be entering his or her junior or senior year. Pictured are Philip C. Meyer, chair, Music/Fine Arts, Blue Mountain College, and Colley. For more information, contact the Baptist Foundation, MBCB, at (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Grace Fellowship of Byram (Metro) will hold a three-day evangelistic crusade Feb. 20-22 at Byram Business Center on Siwell Road. The times are 7 p.m. on Fri. and Sat., and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Gary Bowlin, evangelist, will be preaching. Robby Myrick of Gulfport will lead the music. For more information, call Lonnie Myrick at (601) 346-4678.

The annual meeting of Agricultural Missions Foundation will be held on Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland. Two different mission programs will be discussed at this meeting. The most successful agricultural missions program ever developed will be presented by Harold and Joyce Watson (pictured). For nearly 30 years, this former agricultural teacher, Harold Watson, has developed a primitive, by our standards, but practical experiment station in the Philippines. James H. Ziler, agricultural evangelist, will share what it is like working in Haiti. He has used "Wells of Salvation" Isaiah 12:3 as means of showing love and concern and to gain the confidence of those he wanted to reach. Over 300,000 receive water from more than 400 wells he helped drill.



The Watsons

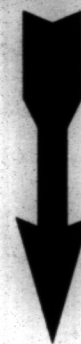
Petra Praise II will be in concert at the Jackson County Fairgrounds, Pascagoula, March 14 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Adams, minister of youth, Four Mile Creek Church, Escatawpa, at (228) 475-8244.

Loncar, assistant professor of music and artist in residence at William Carey College (WCC); and his wife Natasa Klasinc will present a concert March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. Loncar and Klasinc are both natives of Croatia. They live in Hattiesburg where Loncar directs the guitar program at WCC. Klasinc teaches guitar at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Pearl River Community Studies; and Celoria, a senior history major from Smithdale, received the special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature.



Daniel Browning and Jon Celoria were recognized at the Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) ceremony held in Jackson Feb. 17. Browning, associate professor of religion in the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies; and Celoria, a senior history major from Smithdale, received the special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature. Their bachelor and master degrees from the University of Mississippi. Admission is \$5. For more information call the music department at (601) 582-6175.

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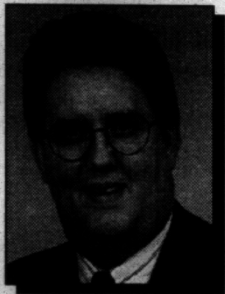
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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Heidi Cheatham was named by First Church, Madison, as the 1998 recipient of the Jud DeFoore Memorial Scholarship Fund. A native of Madison, Cheatham entered New Orleans Seminary last fall. The Jud DeFoore Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1994 after DeFoore's death and awarded annually to a student attending a Southern Baptist seminary. Members of First Church continue to give to the scholarship fund. Pictured are Myrtle DeFoore, Cheatham, and John Temple, pastor.

Paul T. Jones, pastor of First Church, Magnolia, will be honored Feb. 22 with a day of appreciation. Jones has been in Magnolia for eight years. He is originally from Oklahoma and has been in the ministry for 21 years. The celebration will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude with a fellowship meal at noon.



Jones

Lovie Pierce Lindsey, a Brookhaven native and widow of A. B. Pierce, died on Jan. 7 in Atlanta, Texas. Services were held Jan. 10 in Atlanta with burial Jan. 11 in Brookhaven. Lindsey attended Whitworth College in Brookhaven. She assisted her husband, A. B. Pierce, in his pastorates at various churches in Mississippi,

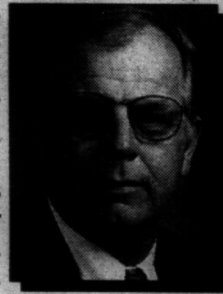
including Crystal Springs, New Albany, Kosciusko, Laurel, and Greenville, as well as Pine Bluff, Arkansas. After the death of her husband, she served as a Dorm Mother at Quachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia, Ark. During their years in Mississippi, A. B. Pierce also served as the first Executive Secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in Jackson. Survivors include: sons, James A. Pierce, Jackson, and William E. Pierce, Chino Valley, Ariz.; daughter, Natilie P. Lindsey, Atlanta, Texas; brother, Robert P. James, Fortson, Ga.; sister, Margaret James Thompson, Meridian; nine grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

Como Church, Como, honored John Flowers and his wife and Betty Presley with a fellowship supper and gifts on Jan. 11. The Flowers were honored for service and assistance. Presley was honored for over 40 years as church pianist.



Calvary Church, Waynesboro, licensed **Wes Bonner** to the ministry on Jan. 4. Doug Broome, pastor, presented Bonner (right) with a plaque commemorating the occasion. Bonner is a student at Jones County Junior College, where he serves as BSU president.

Larry Harvey has surrendered to full time vocational evangelism effective Feb. 1. He held a pastorate for over ten years. Harvey is available for one day, weekends, or week long revivals. He can be contacted at P. O. Box 126, West, MS 39192 or call (601) 967-2978.



Harvey



Burdette Rutland, 68, has served as deacon at Mission Hill Church, Wesson, for 50 years. A surprise reception was held in his honor on Jan. 11. Rutland was in charge of a devotional during church services. His topic was the Sin of Tolerance. He compared what we tolerate today that was not allowed 50 years ago. Rutland is pictured receiving a plaque from Tommy Purvis, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian, has called **Paul Bird** as minister of music effective Jan. 11. A native of Louisiana, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Calvary Church, Meridian.

Howard D. Smith is retiring as director of missions from Warren and Yazoo Associations on May 28. He is available for interim pastor, supply, and revivals. Smith can be reached at Route 1, Box 18507, Saint Joseph, LA 71366 or call (318) 766-4768.

Freedom Church, Laurel, has called **Robby Johnson** as pastor effective Jan. 19. Johnson will receive a degree from William Carey College in May. His previous place of service was Goshen Church, Magee.

Pike County Association has called **Charles Davis Sr.** as director of missions effective Dec. 1. Davis has pastored several churches in Georgia and Mississippi over the past 33 years. He goes to McComb from Newhebron Church, Newhebron, where he served as pastor for 6 years.

Seniors health fair announced

Baptist Health Systems and Ridgeland Court Assisted Living Facility will sponsor a free senior health fair on Feb. 20 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Ridgeland Court in Ridgeland. The health fair will feature a variety of tests and educational activities for seniors, including blood pressure, blood sugar, and personalized health assessments. For more information, contact Baptist Health Systems at (800) 948-6262.

Woodville Church, presented a Bible to **Harvey L. Leake** on Baptist Men's Day. At 92 years old, Leake is the oldest man in the church and has served in many church positions. A deacon of the church for decades, Leake has been an inspiration and a spiritual model for many young men. Pictured with Leake is Gary Bunch, pastor.

Churches planning mission trip

Hillcrest Church, Jackson, and **Mt. Zion Church, Florence**, are planning a mission trip this summer to Mexico. As well as conducting Vacation Bible School (VBS) for five churches, the group will also be involved with construction and mechanic work for the resident missionaries, Wayne and Nina Fleming. The Mexican churches are in need of the following items: used or new offering plates (for the five churches); and the Christian flag for VBS (for the five churches). If interested in donating these or other items, call Tommy Bufkin, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, at (601) 845-8251 (office) or 845-3547 (home).



Vera Byrd, a native of Laurel, was recognized recently for 20 years of perfect attendance in both Sunday School and worship services at First Church, Laurel. During Sunday morning worship service, a certificate of recognition was presented to her by Randall Turner, pastor, and Vince Scoper, Sunday School director. The Dorcas Sunday School class presented her with a pin to commemorate her special achievement.

LOTTIE MOON GOALS REACHED



Union Church, Rankin Association, set a goal of \$1,000 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The goal was reached with a total of \$2,553.21. Of this amount, \$100.21 was made up by the "Kids Team," Kristina Bozeman, teacher. Brent Bozeman is pastor.

Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, exceeded its goal of \$3,600 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by a final total of \$3,729.07. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.



New Hope Church, Lee County, met its goal of \$7,000 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering on Dec. 28. Lowell Johnson is pastor.

The Danny Rollins Chapter of RAs at First Church, Coldwater, held a benefit soup supper on Jan. 7 to raise money for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The event raised over \$500.



Whitesand Church, Prentiss, saw Christian principles in practice as a small candle turned into a large \$6,000 one. A goal of \$4,000 was set. An RA boy put money in jars and told his parents he wanted his Christmas gifts to be the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. After the offering, he said, "Now, I'm collecting for the Annie Armstrong Offering." Pictured are Lil Hughes, WMU director, lighting the candle; Vickie Bridges, Susan Slater, and Pat Eubanks, mission organization leaders; Joe Bridges, Terry Mathis, and Dean Banks, RA leaders. George Gerald Aultman, interim pastor.

Revival dates

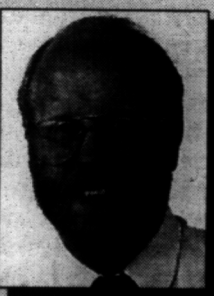
Phillipston, Sidon: March 1-4; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Tanner, Mt. Pisgah Church, Carroll County, evangelist; Lester Jeffers, pastor.

Unity (Simpson): Feb. 20-22; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m., and lunch served at church; Jerome McLeondon, pastor, message; Castle Family of Jackson, music.

CBF missionary Rutledge to speak in Miss. churches

Kevin Rutledge, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) missionary to the Czech Republic, will be speaking in churches around the state on Feb. 22-25.

Rutledge, a North Carolina native and graduate of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., has served in the Czech Republic for five years. Prior to that assignment, he served in Austria and Poland.



Rutledge

Rutledge's Mississippi schedule includes:

■ University Church, Hattiesburg. Morning worship service on Feb. 22.

■ Rivercrest Church, Jackson. Evening worship service on Feb. 22.

■ First Church, Leland. 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 23.

■ Calvary Church, Jackson. Noon luncheon on Feb. 24 with retired ministers and missionaries.

■ Northside Church, Clinton. Midweek service at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25.

For more information, contact Bradley Pope, Mississippi CBF coordinator, at (601) 355-7824.

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First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My pre-adolescent starts many things (sports, music, etc.) but quits when the going gets tough. Am I encouraging laziness if I allow this conduct to continue?

Parents sometimes push their children because of an unmet need in their own lives. Examine yourself and be sure that isn't the case. Your role as parent is not to form your child into what you want him to be, but rather to help him be the person God created.

Observe your child to understand whether he really enjoys the activity. If he wants to bail out simply because it requires more discipline and responsibility than he expected (such as caring for an animal), you should step in and encourage him to continue.

Use age-appropriate illustrations to help your child understand the rewards of perseverance. The Bible is filled with such illustrations. Our culture will teach him to always take the easy way out. As a parent you must teach him, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of right-

eousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Heb. 12:11 NIV)

I find myself spent of energy at the end of every day. What are the keys to maintaining balance in my life?

Daily exhaustion is usually caused by an attitude of "I've got to do it all," which can lead to emotional, physical, sexual, intellectual, and social dysfunctions. Here are some keys to staying in balance:

- ◆ Begin each day with a quiet time with the Lord.
- ◆ Do something nice for yourself every day.
- ◆ Do something nice for someone else every day.
- ◆ Plan and adhere to a written "to do" list.
- ◆ Never pick up a piece of paper more than once. If you do — toss it, forget it, file it, or give it away.
- ◆ Clear three minutes a day simply to dream of possibilities.
- ◆ Find encouragement by learning from your mistakes.
- ◆ Study Luke 12:22-34. This is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

MS Positions Available

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC for Adult and Youth Choirs. Send resumes to Ronnie Clark, Ruleville Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771.

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ SR. ADULT MINISTER: Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 545, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

ADMINISTRATOR: Lamar Christian School, which is owned and operated by the Lamar County Baptist Association, Purvis, MS. To request

an application form or for further information, contact Glenn Davis, PO Box 368, Sumrall, MS 39482; home phone: (601) 758-4589 work phone: (601) 758-4738.

FULL-TIME YOUTH SUMMER INTERN: Mid-May to first week in August to plan and direct youth activities. Experience in preferred. Send or fax your resume to Liberty Baptist Church, c/o Dr. John R. Cofer, 5199 Lakeland Dr., Flowood, MS 39208, FAX (601) 992-4242.

Baptist food bank in D.C. nourishes needy

WASHINGTON (BP) — His bright smile and pleasant appearance leaves one thinking that Lewis does not have a care in the world. Dressed sharply in his Sunday best, this 70-something African-American arrives at Covenant Baptist Church in Washington, his stately appearance giving the impression of a man who enjoys a life of leisure in his golden years.

Yet that first impression is shattered as Lewis steps forward to receive a free sack of groceries; it is distribution day at the church's food pantry.

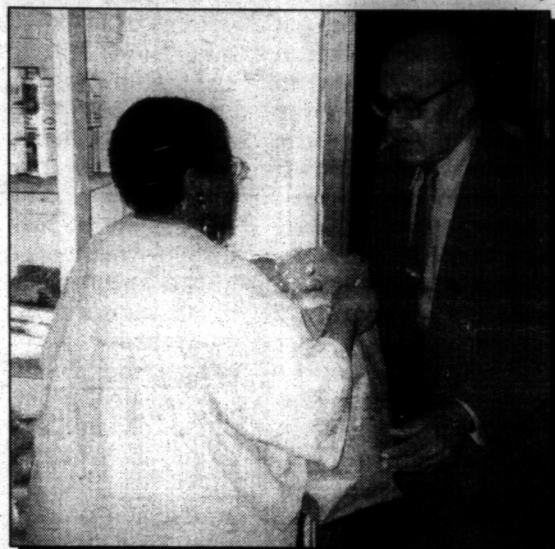
Lewis, whose only source of income is a meager Social Security check, depends on his weekly bag of staples to make it through the month. Lewis' situation is not unusual in his neighborhood or in neighborhoods across the United States in which the elderly, and numerous others, often find themselves trapped in the grip of poverty.

Gratefully, many Southern Baptist churches are stepping forward aggressively with feeding ministries through both food closets and soup kitchens to stand in the gap for the less fortunate in their communities.

Sylvia, age 41, works part-time for the District of Columbia metro transportation system. A troubled past relationship has left her with bills and a woefully insufficient income for herself and her four children. A proud woman, she is direct in describing her struggle: "I got stuck with a lot of bills. But I have A-1 credit. I can't stand bad credit. It takes everything I make

to do it. It is really hard being alone."

Covenant food distribution director Beverly Martin and coordinator Jean Shamburger share food every Monday,



NOURISHING BODY, SOUL — A needy resident of Washington, D.C. accepts a bag of groceries from a volunteer at the Covenant Church food pantry. (BP special photo)

Wednesday, and Friday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. The food casts a critical lifeline to many residents of this troubled community nearly in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol building.

While some of the food is donated from local bakeries and food stores, Martin is

quick to share her thankfulness for funds received from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. "We could not do what we do without hunger funds." She explained most of the food is bought from the Capitol Area Food Bank where \$1.05 will buy 15 pounds of food.

Though a daily struggle, success stories serve as encouragement to the staff and volunteers. One lady, age 36, was about to be evicted from her apartment, Martin recalled. Desperate for help with rent and food, Martin proudly said, "We helped her and now she serves here as a volunteer. On another occasion, someone sent us \$60 worth of Food Stamps with a note saying, 'Thank you for what was done for me. Perhaps this can help someone else.'"

These few images do little justice to the tireless efforts of this caring church in the heart of the nation's capitol. As the members reach out in Jesus' name, countless lives are touched with food for hungry bodies and the bread of life for hungry souls. Over a four month period in 1997, 678 families received food aid representing a total of 2,651 people, Martin said.

Of the people served, 30 signed up to attend biblically based support groups at the church dealing with various life issues.

Martin said at least 10 individuals are known to have prayed to receive Christ as their Savior and, she added, the seed was sown for future harvest in the hearts of many more.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name. John 1:12

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Pastor: Karla Faye Tucker blessed with Christians

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — On Tuesday, Feb. 3, convicted pick ax killer and born-again Christian Karla Faye Tucker met Jesus face-to-face.

Tucker, 38, was pronounced dead at 6:45 p.m., eight minutes after lethal drugs flowed into her body.

"God did bless Karla Faye Tucker," said David Crosby, pastor of New Orleans' First

Church and a friend of Tucker.

"God blessed her with Christian people who cared enough about prisoners to go to the jail and teach her God's Word without judging her," Crosby pointed out.

"That woman opened up like a blossom in the sunshine. ... She wanted her life to bring glory to God," he said.

Crosby met Tucker in 1984

when he began doing volunteer work at the Texas Women's Prison in Gatesville.

At the time, Crosby was pastor of Trinity Church in Gatesville and also worked with women prisoners along with his brother, Timothy, a full-time prison chaplain.

Following a year of prayer, Bible study, singing, and discipleship, Crosby baptized Karla in the prison.

The woman who was smoking marijuana at the age of 8, doing heroin by 10 and prostituting her body as a teenager was now a changed person, Crosby said.

"We've got to get back to good Sunday School work and see the importance of children's and youth work in our churches. Reaching a child as a fourth-grader is in itself a noble and profitable thing to do, whether

or not his parents show up," Crosby said.

No matter if it is in prison, in a housing community or in some other area where people are without Jesus, Crosby said, "We all have an appointment to do something of great significance," he stressed.

As hopes for a stay or clemency ran out, the early morning hours of Feb. 4 were difficult for Crosby and it was difficult for him to keep from weeping.

The woman he called "interesting," "naturally curious," "gentle" and "the poster child of God's grace" was executed in a Texas prison less than 24 hours earlier.

"I believe one day the Lord will say, 'I was in prison and you visited me.'"

"Maybe he will say that of me, and maybe of Karla," Crosby said.

Cancellation

The following meeting has been cancelled:

— Start Something New Conference, April 20 at Camp Garaywa.

For more information, contact Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Keeping the faith

Jude 3-4, 17-25

By Debbie Sills

Some people believe that any disagreement in Christian circles is wrong and is to be avoided at all costs. Some tend to shy away from conflict. One must only look in some of our own churches to see examples. Are there those in your church who are leaders, but practice immorality, or have attitudes unbecoming of a Christian? Jude realized this was happening and felt obligated to warn the believers of the infiltrators who were teaching false doctrines and promoting a lifestyle opposite of what Christians should. He reminds us to defend our faith and take a

stand for the truth, live a Christian life, and help straying believers return to the Lord.

Present Danger (3-4).

Jude became aware of destructive teaching that was misguiding them. He realized the purity of their faith was threatened and he felt compelled to defend both them and the Christian faith. Jude spoke of the faith "which was once for all delivered to the saints." There is an unchangeable quality in it. That quality is Jesus. The Christian faith is not something that is merely handed down through the cold print of books. It is something which is passed on from person to person through the generations. The

Christian faith is handed down through the generations, it must be uncorrupted and unperturbed. Jude was urging them to defend their faith from these false teachers and preserve the truth.

Past Warning (17-19). Last week we discussed the scoffers who would be present in the last days. They do not believe in Christ's second coming and will try anything to discourage others from holding on to their faith. In these verses, Jude reminded the believers of what they had heard before about the

chain of Christian tradition is a living chain whose links are men and women who have experienced the wonder of knowing Christ. Jude realized how precious this was and therefore felt compelled to warn them of the false teachers who were trying to destroy the Christian faith. If the

people who would mock Jesus and follow after their own earthly lusts. These are the ones who will cause divisions and try to lead others into a lifestyle of sin. There are many people today who follow this pattern yet claim to be Christian. They take their faith at face value. They go to church, carry a Bible, and say all the right things at the appropriate times, but their life is empty and they create problems among the redeemed.

Persistent Ministry (20-23). Jude urges believers to hold fast to the faith of Christ. One way to do that is to remain in close communion with God through prayer and through our actions. We must give him love and obedience. Many Christians avoid fellow believers who fall into sinful practices, but our duty is to disciple and minister to those who have been led astray by false teachers. However, it is difficult to do this and not be

led astray ourselves unless we guard our faith with the truth. The only way to know if the teachings are false is to know the truth. The only way to know the truth is to read the Bible and spend time with God.

Powerful Praise (24-25). Jude knew how difficult the task of standing up for the truth was. He also knew that many are tempted to believe evil is so strong that resisting is futile. However, Jude praised God because Jude knew he was (and still is) able to help believers to stand and to present themselves faultless before his presence. God alone has the power to keep us from stumbling and being led astray. We can not do it alone. With God's help and his strength we can stand firm in our faith. We can grab hold of those who are falling and lead them to once again recognize the truth.

Sills is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

LIFE AND WORK

God's love

I John 3:1; 4:7-18

By Don Lum

This week we examine God's love — the most important kind of love. God's love is the basis of our relationship with him. "For God so loved the world he gave his only Son" so that we could know him. God's love is what we are to share with a lost and dark world. Remember, everyone wants to be loved and God is the only one who is always there for us; the only one who can fill that 'void' in our lives.

How can I know that God loves me? As we examine the scripture, think of how you can share this incredible truth with one who doesn't understand.

God calls us his children (3:1). John, the beloved apostle,

shares a wonderfully inspired thought.

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are." We did nothing to deserve God's favor. We were a rebellious, self-centered creation — ungrateful for all the wonderful things he made for us. But, his love for us is so great that he gave his own son and if we will receive that gift he will adopt us into his family. We become his children. We are sons and daughters of the creator. What a freeing thought. Our Father is God and he wants to care for us as his children. Those of us who are parents can understand a little of

this kind of love. As my Father, God wants to give me protection, security, and direction. He wants to take care of me. But, unlike earthly parents God can do all of this without making mistakes. If we could only learn to let God be our Father day by day.

God sent his Son (4:7-10). God is love and in all

of his dealings with us, he is motivated by love. It is a self-giving unconditional love. Before we knew him, he loved us and was willing to die for us. Think of the great sacrifice that God made for a world of "religious people" by sending his only son. But the world did not accept and love him, they hated and killed him. He even loved them from the cross as he said "Father, forgive them." What more could he do than willingly die for us. What a message we have! God loves you so much that he sent his one and only son to die to

pay the penalty for your sin. That's news worth sharing with your lost friends and family.

God lives in us (4:11-16). Examine these verses carefully as you examine yourself. God lives in us through his Holy Spirit and, if he lives in us, his love is in us. We can't help it! His love is made complete in us as we love each other. Others see him in us and that is the whole point.

How can I know God loves me? He lives in me and loves me. He completes me and restores me to a relationship and fellowship with him. As a new creation I will love like he loves as I learn to walk in the Spirit step by step. Read carefully... "if we love one another, God lives in us."

God removes our fear (4:17-18). How can I know God loves me? He takes away the fear of judgement. I am not afraid to meet a Father who loves me so much. In Christ I will stand before him as his child...not

afraid of him. What should I fear when I am loved by a God so powerful and so wise. This is the abundant life. Remember, Jesus said the truth will set us free and this is a great freeing truth. The love of God takes away all fear.

God has done everything necessary to show us that he loves us and wants to have fellowship with us. The great news...we can experience it. It is our choice.

Conclusion

Have you experienced God's love in a personal way? Have you shared your experience with anyone else. There are people everywhere who need to hear that God loves them. Look for opportunities to tell people that God loves them. If you will be willing to share, God will use you to share the Good news that he loves them.

God bless you as you live for him. He will use you to make a difference in people's lives.

Lum is a consultant in the Miss. Baptist Evangelism Dept.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Trusting God's goodness

Genesis 50:14-25

By Edna Ellison

One of the darkest nights of my life was when my son, Jack, was hurt in an auto accident. As he cried, "O, Lord, let me die. I can't stand the pain," I sat in a dark corner of the hospital room, begging, "Don't listen to him, Lord. Let him live!" His father had died a few years earlier, and I could not bear to lose my son.

The next morning, life seemed brighter. Then, after two surgeries and months of physical therapy, he "graduated" from a wheelchair to crutches, a walker, and then a cane. Today he walks only with a slight limp, living proof of

God's goodness!

Joseph's life was also proof of God's goodness. Though his brothers had sold him into slavery and he had spent years separated from them, at last he reunited with his family and they moved to Egypt. Seventeen years later when his father, Jacob, died, the entire nation joined Joseph in an elaborate funeral during a 70-day period of mourning, and then Joseph and his eleven brothers took the body back to Canaan.

A worrisome question (50:14-15). Finally, reality set in. After the brothers returned, they began to fear: "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and

pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him?" (v. 15). Though Joseph had sought reconciliation seventeen years before, the brothers still felt guilty, fearing the consequences of their sin.

A verious request (50:16-18). Years before, the brothers had failed to communicate with Joseph.

At this time, however, they initiated reconciliation by sending Joseph a message which they claimed came from Jacob on his deathbed: "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong" (v. 17). Using the messenger as a buffer, the brothers kneeled before Joseph (v. 18).

A wonderful response (50:19-21). Joseph soothed their fears, humbling himself before them. He pointed to God as their ultimate judge. "Am I in God's place" (v. 19)? Then he uttered a profound sentence:

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." (v. 20).

God can take evil intentions and turn them into good. Through the centuries God has taken evil situations and turned them into good for his children. God had placed Joseph in just the right place at the right time. Sold into slavery, he had served in Egypt, the only place in that area that had stored food for a long famine. God had preserved the family by setting in place a brother with a vision of providing food! Then he provided a place in Egypt for the family to live.

Joseph recognized God's goodness, and he did not bear grudges because he knew God was in charge. He went one step further: "I will provide for you and your little ones" (v. 21).

A covenant promise (50:22-25). Joseph lived a long life in Egypt — one hundred and ten years. Before he died, he adopted his nephews so they would

inherit his estate. (They "were born [adopted] on his knees" v. 23.) Before he died, Joseph renewed a promise given to Abraham years before (v. 24), that they would someday return to Canaan. He required his kinsmen to repeat the promise, to remember it; then promise to bury him in Canaan as they had his father. A generation later, Israelites did bury Joseph at Shechem (Josh. 24:32).

Questions to Consider:

It isn't easy to see God's perfect plan when you are suffering. How can you accept Joseph's philosophy of "taking evil for good" in your own life now?

How has God turned tragedy into good in your life? Thank him now for times he has cared for you when you were experiencing terrible trauma or pain.

Whom can you tell that God never forsakes his children? Do it today.

Ellison is a consultant in the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union.

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CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE HONOREES

Causeyville Baptist Church, Lauderdale Association did meet the challenge to support The Baptist Children's Village for a full day but was left off the list of centennial donors. Thank you, Causeyville!

Prophecy buffs note Israel's 'jubilee' year

By Mark Wingfield, Editor
Ky. Western Recorder

WASHINGTON (ABP) — In three months, Israel will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a modern nation.

Is that a sign of Israel's political savvy and determination, or is it a sign of God's working in the world to bring about the end times?

How you answer that question depends largely on how you view end-times prophecy in the Bible.

"Israel is God's time clock," prophecy author Tim LaHaye told a recent breakfast gathering sponsored by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

LaHaye, a Baptist author and speaker who is considered one of the foremost advocates of an end-times theology known as premillennial dispensationalism, said understanding Israel's history is a key to understanding biblical prophecy.

His perspective, though at odds with most Christian scholars, is shared by many Christian Zionists who feel a moral imperative to advocate Israel's cause.

The formation of the modern state of Israel on May 14, 1948, is "the greatest sign of our times," said David Sudlow, director of Christians for Israel, an advocacy group based in Woodstock, Va.

That God is "continuing to bring back Jews from the four corners of the earth" is a sign of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, Sudlow said.

He cites Ezekiel 39 as an indicator of this: "When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations."

Sudlow interprets that passage with this explanation: "This fulfillment of prophecy is a great trumpet sounding in the ears of the church pointing to the imminent return of Jesus Christ, the king of the Jews."

The 50th anniversary of Israel's reconstitution as a state has "a whole lot of importance" for the future, Sudlow said. He sees this anniversary fitting a pattern of events that have been marked in 50-year cycles.

Ed McAteer, a champion of conservative Christian and political causes who sponsors an annual prayer breakfast for Israel, agrees that this year's anniversary is a major milestone. "When you pull together all

the prophecies ... and see the prophecies being fulfilled, it is significant," he said.

The prophecies referred to by McAteer, Sudlow, and LaHaye are found throughout the Bible, but especially in the writings of the Old Testament prophets such as Daniel and Isaiah.

Premillennial dispensationalism is one of four major systems for interpreting Scriptures that relate to the end-times, a part of theology known as eschatology.

Adherents to this system are the most conservative of the conservatives, who believe every word of the Bible must be understood literally.

The name premillennial comes from this group's assertion that in the end-times Christ will return to earth to set up his kingdom for a literal 1,000-year period during which Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled on earth.

Dispensationalists see seven distinct epochs or dispensations of time described in the Bible, starting with a time of innocence and ending with a time of Christ's kingdom on earth. According to this perspective, the current epoch is the period of grace, sometimes called the church age.

Premillennial dispensationalists place a high value on numbers and patterns. Thus they find significance in the modern state of Israel's 50th anniversary as representing the "year of jubilee" described in the Bible. The Old Testament book of Leviticus called on ancient Israelites to observe a "sabbath" by refraining from planting crops every seventh year in the Promised Land and a special "jubilee" after seven sabbaths, in which land that had been sold was to be returned to its original owners and slaves released.

Premillennial dispensationalists also are especially interested in so-called "signs of the times," because they believe certain Old Testament prophecies must be fulfilled before Christ will return. Thus the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948 is viewed as God's movement to regather his chosen people, leading to fulfillment of Ezekiel 39.

McAteer sees signs of the times all around. "What will be the sign of his coming? Jesus says it will be as in the days of Noah ... every thought continually wicked."

That describes the modern world precisely, McAteer said. "Even though it is sad all we see today,

Jesus said that will be the sign."

Even so, Israel is "the main barometer" of God's movement to ultimately fulfill prophecy, he said.

Christians who are not premillennial dispensationalists have a hard time accepting much of this system's beliefs, especially the heavy attention to predicting what events must happen before Christ can return.

"Scripture seems to affirm that Jesus' return is imminent and that nothing stands in the way between us and that event," said Carey Newman, an evangelical New Testament scholar who rejects dispensationalism. "The Apostle Paul said nothing stood in the way between the return of Jesus and him."

Newman notes premillennialists, by attempting to predict what certain "signs" mean, fall into a trap the Bible warns Christians against. "Scripture warns of this very sort of specific prognostication," he said. "Even the risen Jesus in the book of Acts warns against it."

Also, premillennialists assert that God will save the Jewish people in the end times, a literal reading of Romans 11:26, which says "all Israel will be saved."

The danger other Christians see with this view, Newman said, is that it sets up more than one way to salvation. "This perspective leads one ultimately to affirm two paths of salvation, one for Jews and one for Christians. Christians are saved by faith in Jesus; Jews ultimately will be saved by simply being Jews."

"I think Paul argues otherwise, as do other New Testament authors," he continued. "The whole world will be judged through Jesus Christ

and by the gospel. Any way of talking about the future of Israel that does not have the gospel and the church as its center because of the death and resurrection of Jesus must be a misreading of the text.

"What we really have here is politics of the United States, seeing us as the great protector of Israel."

That concern is shared by James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington.

"My problem with their focus on the year of jubilee is they have distorted Scripture by putting a civil-religion overlay on a biblical concept," Dunn added. "Just as it is possible for someone who loves animals to anthropomorphize them and give them human characteristics, it is possible to take an Old Testament Scripture and civil religionize it and make it say things it doesn't say."

Dunn said he fears the Christian Zionists do not have the right motive for befriending Israel. "There is a major flaw in the desire of Christian Zionists to cozy up to the nation Israel if they see the Jews and Israel as nothing more than pawns for their eschatology or prospects for their evangelism."

Numerous events are planned in the U.S. to mark this year's anniversary of Israel's new history. Perhaps the biggest in the Christian world will be "Israel's Jubilee," planned for April 29-May 3 in Orlando.

This event, billed as "the largest gathering of Christians and Jews in support of Israel ever convened," is sponsored by the Christian Alliance for Israel, based in Jacksonville Beach, Fla.



Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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WMLBDI, U CHKVHQ
ELUDD WM ZHGL YLHDI,
UQI ELUDD WKHQV
TBKGL U EBQ, UQI GLMX
ELUDD YUDD LHE QUNM
MNNUQOMD, ZLHYL
WMHQV HQGMKSKMGMI
HE, VBI ZHGL OE.

NUGGLMZ BQM:

GZMQGX-GLKMM

Clue: Y = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke One, Forty-Five.

Four views of the end-times

DOWNER'S GROVE, Ill. (ABP) — Following are four commonly held views of the end-times by evangelical Christians. The descriptions are condensed from the introduction to "The Meaning of the Millennium," edited by Robert Clouse and published by Intervarsity Press.

♦ **Amillennialism.** Views most biblical prophecy figuratively rather than literally. Thus the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth referenced in Revelation 20 is said to symbolize Christ's present rule from heaven with the souls of deceased believers. Amillennialism teaches that at the Second Coming of Christ, the dead shall be raised and the last judgment held, with a perfect kingdom of God to come afterward for those who have trusted in Jesus as the Messiah.

♦ **Postmillennialism.** Views the kingdom of God as being extended through Christian preaching and teaching that will cause the world to be Christianized and result in a long period of peace and prosperity called the millennium. This period will close with the Second Coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment. Not a widely held position today.

♦ **Historic premillennialism.** Based on a strictly literal reading of Scripture, anticipates the Second Coming of Christ to be preceded by certain signs such as the preaching of the gospel to all nations, a great apostasy, wars, famines, earthquakes, the appearance of the Antichrist and a great tribulation. Christ's return will be followed by a period of peace and righteousness before the end of the world. During this time the Jews will be converted and figure prominently in the unfolding drama.

♦ **Premillennial dispensationalism.** Based on historic premillennialism, but with the added view that the purposes of God in Scripture may be understood through a series of time periods called dispensations. Sees the coming of Christ before the millennium in two stages, with the first being a secret "rapture" of the church before the great tribulation. This view came to prominence in the 1800s, and was spread widely by C.W. Scofield, who integrated the doctrines into his Scofield Reference Bible.